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IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1975

No. 75-1107

LAWRENCE HOLZMAN,
Trustee in Bankruptcy,
Petitioner,

vs.

ALFRED M. LEWIS, INC.,
Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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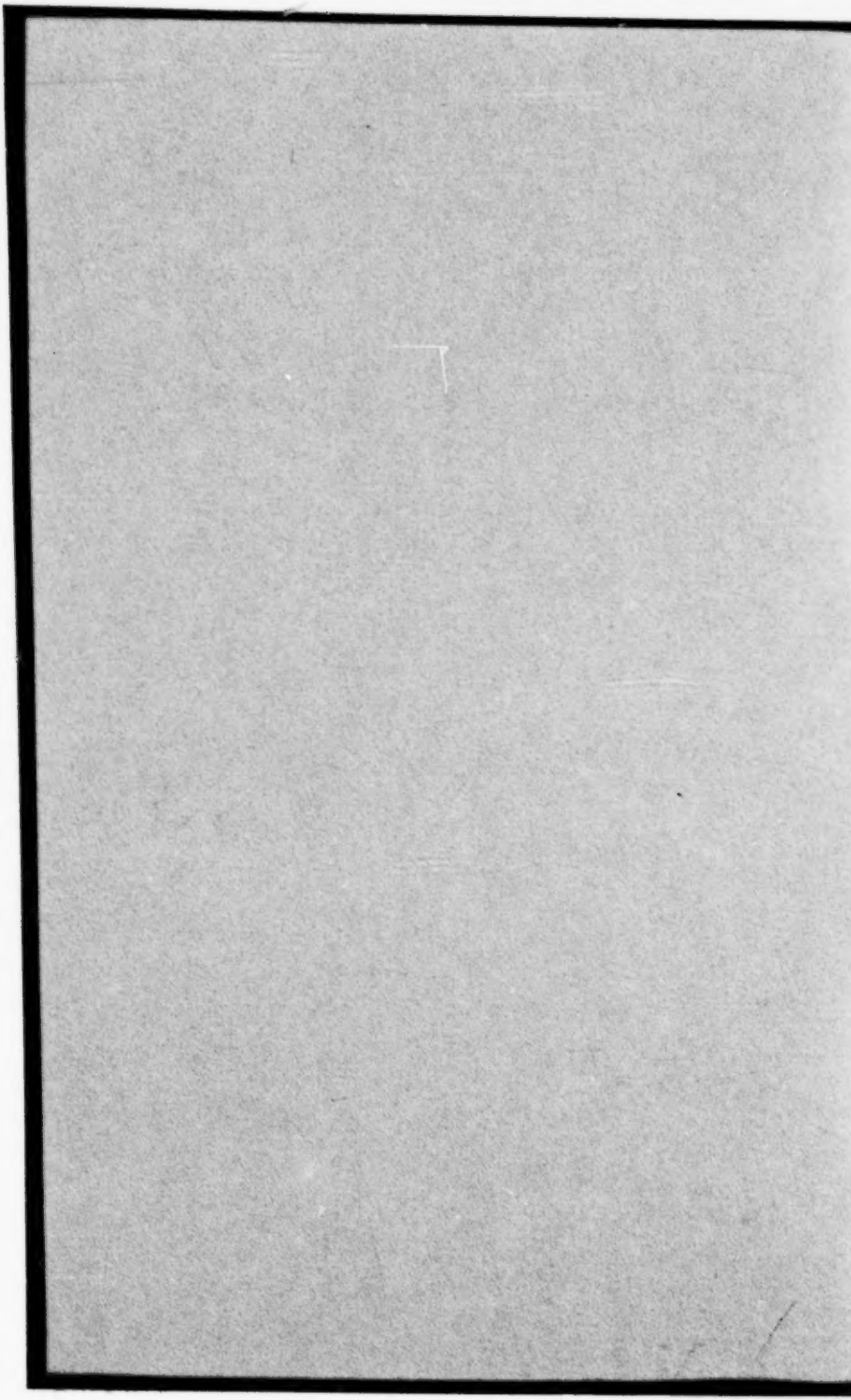

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The Petitioner, Lawrence Holzman, Trustee in Bankruptcy for Telemart Enterprises, Inc., respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit entered in this proceeding on September 17, 1975.

Opinions Below

The opinion of the Court of Appeals, not yet reported, appears in the Appendix as A hereto. The opinion of the District Court for the Southern District of California appears in the Appendix as B hereto.

Jurisdiction

The Judgment of the Court of Appeals was entered on September 17, 1975. A due and timely Petition for Rehearing was denied on November 6, 1975, and a suggestion for rehearing en banc made with the aforesaid Petition for Rehearing was rejected at the same time. A copy of the Order denying the Petition for Rehearing and rejecting the suggestion for a rehearing en banc appears as C in the annexed Appendix. This Court's jurisdiction is invoked under 11 U.S.C. §47; (§24 (c) of the Bankruptcy Act, as amended.)

Questions Presented

1. Whether or not §2702(2) of the California Commercial Code, the provision on which Respondent relies for its right

to recover, is invalid as against a Trustee in Bankruptcy because it is in conflict with §64 and §67 of the Bankruptcy Act.

Statutory Provisions Involved

The provisions of §2702(2) of the Commercial Code of the State of California are:

> Where the seller discovers that the buyer has received goods on credit while insolvent he may reclaim the goods upon demand made within ten (10) days after the receipt, but if a misrepresentation of solvency has been made to the particular seller in writing within three (3) months before delivery the ten (10) day limitation does not apply. Except as provided in this subdivision the seller may not base a right to reclaim goods on the buyer's fraudulent or innocent misrepresentation of solvency or of intent to pay.

The foregoing section is also §2-702 (2) of the Uniform Commercial Code which is in effect in approximately 27 of the other states of the United States.

Statement of the Case

This case involves a Petition for Reclamation by Alfred M. Lewis, Inc. against the Trustee in Bankruptcy for Bankrupt Telemart Enterprises, Inc. The Honorable Louis M. Karp, Referee in Bankruptcy, denied the Petition for Reclamation. Lewis thereafter petitioned the District Court for review of the referee's order. On April 6, 1973, the Honorable Edward J. Schwartz, United States District Judge denied the Petition for Review and affirmed the referee's order and on May 24, 1973, he denied the motion of Lewis to vacate his April 6th order. Lewis filed a timely notice of appeal from these orders.

On September 17, 1975, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court filed its opinion reversing the judgment of the District Court and remanding for a new hearing on Lewis'

Petition for Reclamation. Petitioner thereupon filed a Petition for Rehearing and for a Rehearing en banc which petition was denied by an Order of the Court filed on November 6, 1975.

Telemart Enterprises, Inc. is a California corporation incorporated for the purposes of engaging in the business of the sale and delivery of retail merchandise pursuant to telephone orders placed by customers and home delivery of the orders. The store opened for business September 13, 1970, but within three (3) or four (4) days it became apparent that the warehouse system was inadequate and that Telemart Enterprises, Inc. was not going to be able to continue operating without major modification. On September 29, 1970 Telemart Enterprises, Inc. petitioned for a Chapter XI Arrangement and on December 10, 1970, was adjudicated bankrupt.

Between August 27, 1970, and September 25, 1970, Respondent Lewis sold and delivered to Telemart Enterprises, Inc. frozen foods, groceries and other merchandise of an agreed value of $61,587.43,

no part of which has been paid. On September 30, 1970, Respondent Lewis, by a letter delivered to Telemart Enterprises, Inc.'s Receiver demanded return of the merchandise sold to Telemart Enterprises, Inc. After a series of hearings the referee denied the Petition of Reclamation after which the litigation proceeded through the United States District Court and the United States Court of Appeals as hereinabove outlined.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

I

The Circuit Court has upheld as valid in the State of California §2702(2) of the California Commercial Code which is the same as §2-702 (2) of the Uniform Commercial Code. The Circuit Court in its opinion has determined that the cited section of the Uniform Commercial Code does not create a lien which conflicts with §67c(1) (A) of the Bankruptcy Act.

The Circuit Court in its opinion, also finds that while §2-702(2) of the Uniform

Commercial Code does appear to create a preference in distribution which is violative of §64 of the Bankruptcy Act, that it was not the intent of Congress that priorities declared by §64 of the Bankruptcy Act should have any application in the case of assets to which the bankrupt has received a voidable title. The Circuit Court in effect says that sales which come within the provisions of §2-702(2) create only defeasible title in the buyer and that Congress did not intend §64 of the Bankrutcy Act to apply to situations in which the bankrupt had received only a voidable title.

It is respectfully submitted that the opinion of the Circuit Court in effect amends §64 of the Bankruptcy Act by reading into it language which is simply not there i.e. that the priorities declared by this section shall have no application in the case of assets to which the bankrupt has received a voidable title. The Bankruptcy Act does not say this. There is no ambiguous language in the Act which could be interpreted by the Court as evidencing any such intent by Congress. It

is further respectfully submitted that had Congress desired this result it could provide such language and that the Circuit Court, by its decision, is not interpreting legislation, or any ambiguity therein, but is simply adding what it believes should be the law to the existing legislation. This would appear to be an unwarranted and undesirable usurpation of the powers of Congress by the Judiciary.

II

In so far as Petitioner's research has been able to discover there have been only a few recent cases involving the question of whether or not Uniform Commercial Code §2-702(2) is invalid as being in conflict with §64 and §67 of the Bankruptcy Act (In re Good Deal Supermarkets, Inc., 384 F. Supp. 887; In re Federal's, 12 UCC Rep. Serv. 1142 (E.D. Mich. 1973). These cases, which are all at a lower court level than the Circuit Court, have uniformly held that Uniform Commercial Code §2-702 (2) is invalid as being in conflict with the Bankruptcy Act.

Since the Supreme Court constitutionally exercises broad authority over the

whole field of bankruptcy we believe it appropriate that certiorari be granted to settle the critically important commercial and bankruptcy problems not heretofore resolved.

The respective rights and priorities under the Uniform Commercial Code, as between merchandise suppliers attempting to reclaim merchandise and unsecured creditors (or their Trustee in Bankruptcy) have not authoritatively been defined by the Honorable Court, but should be. This case, since it involves issues which are typical and which will be raised in like situations throughout the United States presents an ideal opportunity, we submit, to decide the critically important issues required by the business community in the setting of the relatively newly adopted Commercial Code.

III

Petitioner respectfully submits that the Uniform Commercial Code §2-702(2) attempts to create a statutory lien in that the particular effect of the provision is to give the seller a right to reclaim his particular merchandise in the

event of insolvency. This is effectively an attempt to give a State statutory lien a priority which is in conflict with the Bankruptcy Act.

Even if it be said that this Section does not create a lien there can be no question that it is an attempt by state law to give a priority in allowing reclamation by a seller of goods sold on credit to an insolvent buyer. There can be no argument that such a seller has permitted title to the merchandise to pass to the bankrupt, and that the merchandise has become a part of the insolvent's estate. Giving the seller the right to reclaim the merchandise under these circumstances is obviously giving that seller a priority over all other creditors of such an insolvent buyer so that the seller is therefore receiving a distribution from the bankrupt's estate contrary to the order of priorities required by the Bankruptcy Act. It is respectfully submitted that the seller's right under the Uniform Commercial Code disrupts the federally created order of priorities and to allow the seller to assert his right of

reclamation in a bankruptcy proceeding would be inimical to the very purposes of the Bankruptcy Act.

The result created by the Circuit Court in its opinion in these proceedings ought not be allowed to stand without a review by this Honorable Court.

For the reasons hereinabove set forth we pray the issuance of a writ of certiorari to United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

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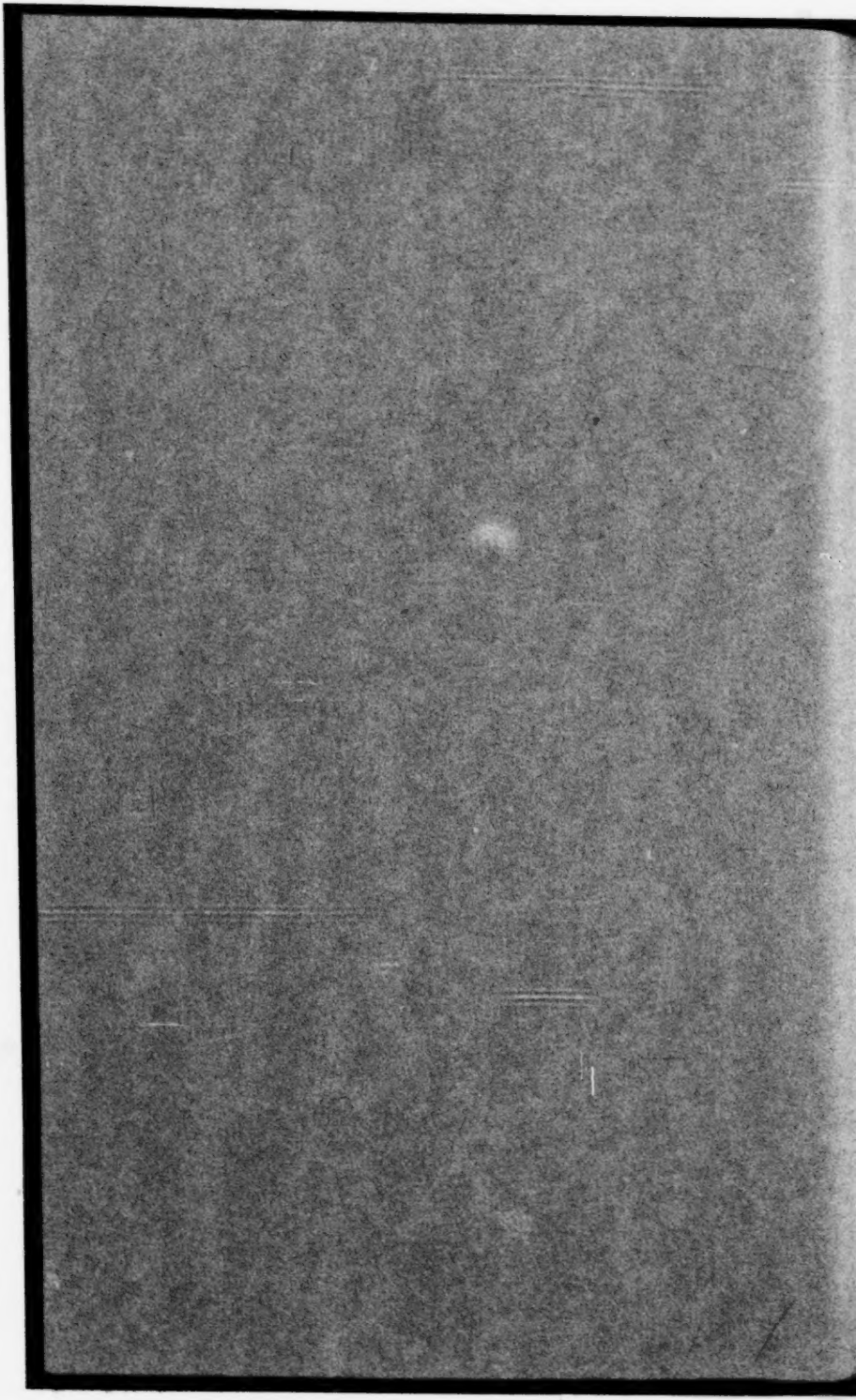

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

In the Matter of TELEMART ENTERPRISES, INC., Bankrupt.	No. 73-2694
ALFRED M. LEWIS, INC., *Petitioner-Appellant,*	OPINION
vs.	
LAWRENCE HOLZMAN, Trustee, *Appellee.*	

[September 17, 1975]

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of California

Before: CHAMBERS, CHOY and GOODWIN, Circuit Judges.

CHOY, Circuit Judge:

Telemart Enterprises, Inc., is a California corporation formed to engage in the sale and delivery of retail merchandise—primarily grocery goods—in response to telephone orders. Telemart opened for business on September 13, 1970, experienced immediate operational difficulties, and petitioned for a Chapter XI arrangement on September 29.

Alfred M. Lewis, Inc. (Lewis), sold frozen foods and groceries worth $61,587.43 on credit to Telemart. Lewis had delivered this merchandise throughout the period from August 27 to September 25. On September 30, having learned of Telemart's Chapter XI petition, Lewis demanded return of the delivered goods pursuant to section 2-702(2) of the Uniform Commercial Code (Calif. Comm. Code § 2702(2)). The referee in bankruptcy denied Lewis' petition for reclamation on the ground that Lewis had

failed to prove that Telemart was insolvent at any time before September 29. The district court affirmed without opinion. Lewis appeals, claiming not only errors in the referee's findings, but violations of his procedural rights before the bankruptcy court. We reverse and remand for a new hearing.

Statutory Lien

The trustee asserts at the outset that UCC § 2-702(2)[1] is invalid against him because it is a statutory lien which first becomes effective upon the insolvency of the debtor. Bankruptcy Act § 67c(1)(A), 11 U.S.C. § 107c(1)(A).[2] His argument that the right to reclaim has the same effect as a lien has found increasing support recently from courts and commentators. *In re Good Deal Supermarkets, Inc.*, 384 F.Supp. 887 (D.N.J. 1974); *In re Federal's, Inc.*, 12 UCC Rep. Serv. 1142 (E.D.Mich. 1973); Countryman, *Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy*, 1 New Mexico L. Rev. 435 (1971).[3] We believe, however, that to so hold would violate Congress' intent in enacting section 67c.

One principal goal of the Bankruptcy Act is to distribute the bankrupt's assets equitably among all of his creditors.[4] At the

[1](2) Where the seller discovers that the buyer has received goods on credit while insolvent he may reclaim the goods upon demand made within ten days after the receipt, but if misrepresentation of insolvency has been made to the particular seller in writing within three months before delivery the ten day limitation does not apply. * * *

[2]c. (1) The following liens shall be invalid against the trustee:
(A) every statutory lien which first becomes effective upon the insolvency of the debtor, or upon distribution or liquidation of his property, or upon execution against his property levied at the instance of one other than the lienor. . . .

[3]*See also* Comment, *In re Federal's, Inc.: A New Way for the Trustee in Bankruptcy to Defeat a Reclaiming Seller*, 35 U.Pitt. L.Rev. 922 (1974). *But see* Hawkland, *The Relative Rights of Lien Creditors and Defrauded Sellers—Amending the Uniform Commercial Code to Conform to the Kravitz Case*, 67 Com. L.J. 86 (1962); Comment, *Uniform Commercial Code—§ 2-702: Conflict with § 67c(1)(A) of the Federal Bankruptcy Act*, 53 N.C. L.Rev. 169 (1974); Comment, *Statutory Liens Under Section 67c of the Bankruptcy Act: Some Problems of Definition*, 43 Tul. L. Rev. 305 (1969).

[4]"One of the fundamental purposes of the Bankruptcy Act is to assure an equitable distribution of the bankrupt's assets. Ideally, this would be accomplished by giving each creditor a pro rata share of the estate."
Sen.Rep. No. 1159, 89th Cong., 2d Sess., 1966 U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 2456.

same time, Congress has maintained a general policy of recognizing property interests established by state law. Thus, section 70a vests the trustee only "with the title of the bankrupt as of the date of the filing of the petition . . . ." 11 U.S.C. § 110a. The trustee is subject to the same defenses as the bankrupt from whom he derives his title. *See Bank of Marin v. England,* 385 U.S. 99, 101 (1966); *Donaldson v. Farwell,* 93 U.S. 631 (1876). These two policies are inherently contradictory, and much of the history of the Act chronicles successive attempts by Congress to strike a proper balance between the interests involved. *See* Marsh, *Triumph or Tragedy? The Bankruptcy Act Amendments of 1966,* 42 Wash. L. Rev. 681, 732-33 (1967).

The Act's handling of statutory liens has been one focal point of this conflict. The Act frustrates a debtor's attempt to prefer some creditors over others by invalidating transfers on account of antecedent debts made while insolvent and within four months of the date of bankruptcy. Section 60, 11 U.S.C. § 96. A lien, of course, is an interest in property. Before 1938, however, section 60 did not conflict with a state's power to define property interests by creating liens. The courts consistently held that liens created by state statute were immune from invalidation under section 60 as it then read. *See In re San Joaquin Valley Packing Co.,* 295 F. 311, 313-14 (9th Cir. 1924); 3 Collier, Bankruptcy ¶ 60.12 (14th ed. 1975). The Chandler Act of 1938 amended section 60, however (ch. 575, § 60, 52 Stat. 840, 869-71); and expanded the definition of a "transfer" to include creation of a lien. Bankruptcy Act § 1(30), 11 U.S.C. § 1(30). To insure that statutory—as opposed to consensual—liens would remain valid, even though created within four months of bankruptcy and while the debtor was insolvent, they were expressly excepted from the expanded sweep of section 60. Bankruptcy Act § 67b, 11 U.S.C. § 107b. Congress thus deferred to policy decisions by the states to favor certain classes of creditors by creating property interests in their behalf. Comment, *Liens and Fraudulent Transfers Under the Chandler Act,* 87 U. Pa. L. Rev. 317, 321-22 (1939); Comment, *Statutory Liens Under Section 67c of the Bankruptcy Act,* 62 Yale L.J. 1131, 1136 (1953).

This deference to state-created liens led to abuses. The Chandler Act abolished state statutory priorities among unsecured creditors at the same time that it recognized state liens.

In section 64 of the Bankruptcy Act, it established five classes of general creditors entitled to successive priority in the distribution of the bankrupt's general assets. Creditors' groups quickly exerted pressure on state legislatures to preserve their favored position by upgrading their state priorities to the status of liens, thus perpetuating the conflict between state and federal priorities which the Chandler Act had been expected to end. Section 67c, as amended in 1966, is an attempt to minimize state conflicts with federal priorities by invalidating as against the trustee some of the more obviously spurious liens, those which function more as priorities in bankruptcy than as property interests. See Sen. Rep. No. 1159, 89th Cong., 2d Sess., 1966 U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 2456, 2461.

Section 67c is thus a remedial trimming-back of the special exemption conferred on statutory liens by section 67b. It was not intended to serve as a new tool by which the trustee could cut down provisions of state law obviously not entitled to the benefits of section 67b. As discussed below, under section 2-702 (2) receipt of goods on credit while insolvent is deemed a fraud on the creditor rendering the sale voidable. The sale thus is defective from its inception. Clearly no new security has been given for an antecedent debt; the "lien," if it is conceived as such, attached at the instant the debt was created. Because no transfer is made on account of an antecedent debt, section 60 could never be applicable. Section 2-702(2) clearly, therefore, was not an attempt to escape the effect of section 60 by creating a spurious statutory lien, and enactment of section 2-702(2) did not present the abuse which section 67c was designed to combat. Accordingly, we would not be justified in using section 67c to strike down UCC § 2-702(2).

Disguised State Priority

The trustee suggests that even if section 2-702(2) is not a statutory lien, it is the result nonetheless of an analogous attempt by the state to give sellers of goods a priority in bankruptcy. Even if not invalid under section 67c, therefore, we should strike it down as in conflict with the policy against recognition of state priorities and with the federal scheme of priorities established by section 64 of the Act. We disagree.

Although the Act pursues a basic policy of deference to state definitions of property, giving the trustee only those interests in property possessed by the bankrupt under state law, this policy is an "interstitial" rule to be observed only when a more express provision of the Act does not command otherwise. *Bank of Marin*, 385 U.S. at 105 (Harlan, J., dissenting). The trustee's power under section 60 to avoid certain preferential transfers is but one instance in which he is armed with greater powers over property than was the bankrupt. We have held that a state-created property interest which functions in practice as a state priority is similarly ineffective against the trustee. *Elliott v. Bumb*, 356 F.2d 749 (9th Cir. 1966).

In *Elliott*, a California statute provided that a licensed issuer of money orders held the proceeds of the sale in trust for the benefit of the purchaser; furthermore, if the issuer commingled the proceeds with his own assets, all his assets were impressed with a trust in the amount of the proceeds. We held that identifiable funds were properly held in trust. We invalidated application of the statute to commingled funds, however. By relieving the purchaser of his normal obligation to trace the proceeds of the sale, the law in effect gave the purchaser a priority over other general creditors in the unsecured portion of the bankrupt's estate.[5]

The distinction drawn in *Elliott* is instructive. Under state law, the issuer of the money order accepted payment only in the capacity of a trustee; he never held absolute ownership of the funds. We respected the state's definition of the issuer's relationship to those paid-in funds. On the other hand, we disregarded the state's attempt to impose a "trust" on funds whose ownership had vested previously in the issuer. Regardless of the state's terminology, the effect of the statute was to give one class of creditors—purchasers of money orders—priority in the distribution of the bankrupt issuer's general assets.

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[5]*See also In re* Crosstown Motors, Inc., 272 F.2d 224 (7th Cir. 1959) (Illinois Trust Receipts Act, giving entruster a lien on bankrupt's general assets in payment for commingled proceeds, held to be a "crystal clear" attempt by the legislature to give the entrustor a priority over general creditors).

The difficulty in applying this distinction to section 2-702(2) results from the UCC's policy against defining rights and duties between parties in terms of "title." The Code does provide that in situations not covered by the Code in which title is material, title shall be deemed to pass upon physical delivery of the goods. UCC § 2-401(2). A reservation of title by the seller is to be regarded as reservation of a security interest. UCC § 2-401(1). Hence, title to the goods in question did pass from Lewis to Telemart.

The Code nowhere discusses the concept of a voidable transfer of title. The right of a seller under section 2-702(2) to reclaim goods and be restored to his pre-sale status is, however, indistinguishable from a right to rescind a voidable transaction. Comment 2 to section 2-702 makes clear that receipt of goods on credit while insolvent is deemed a fraud on the creditor. Because section 2-702(2) authorizes the exact equivalent of the common law remedy of rescission, it would be unreasonably formalistic not to recognize that sales described by that section result in a transfer of only voidable title. *Compare* Restatement, Contracts § 476; 12 S. Williston, Treatise on the Law of Contracts § 1454 (3rd ed. 1970).

The goods thus received under voidable title are analogous to the traceable funds received from sale of money orders in *Elliott*. In neither case does the state derogate from the rights of general creditors to the estate of the bankrupt, because in neither case did the bankrupt receive full powers of ownership over the assets in question. We hold that a state confers a priority repugnant to section 64 only when it attempts to direct the disposition of assets to which the bankrupt has received a non-defeasible title.

We concede that this holding permits the state to evade the spirit of section 64 by multiplying grounds on which a seller may rescind a sale. Nothing in the Bankruptcy Act prevents a state from authorizing rescission for grounds other than those recognized at common law, such as fraud and misrepresentation. This loophole is a necessary result of Congress' attempt to promote simultaneously two conflicting interests: equal distribution of the bankrupt's estate among all general creditors and recognition of property interests created by the state. Section 67c was the

result of congressional desire to restrict the state in creation of liens; only analogous legislation could effect a similar limitation on creation of grounds for rescission.

Referee's Adoption of Proposed Findings

The referee dismissed Lewis' petition for reclamation, finding that at no time before the date of bankruptcy had Telemart ceased to pay its debts in the ordinary course of business or been unable to pay its debts as they came due, nor had its liabilities exceeding its assets. Lewis attacks procedural irregularities in the referee's adoption of these findings.

The referee announced his decision shortly before his retirement. Without notifying Lewis, the referee requested the trustee's attorney to prepare proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. Lewis was not invited to participate in the preparation of findings, nor given an opportunity to object to them before they were filed.

Local Rule 7(a) of the district court prohibits signing of findings prepared by counsel "unless opposing counsel shall have endorsed thereon an approval as to form, or shall have failed to serve and file with the clerk within five days after service of a copy thereof, as shown by endorsement of the original affidavit of service, a statement of objections to form and the grounds thereof." Local rules are promulgated primarily for the benefit of the district court itself, and their violation is not generally grounds for reversal. *Lance, Inc. v. Dewco Services, Inc.*, 422 F.2d 778, 784 (9th Cir. 1970). Although noncompliance with local rules is not in itself sufficient reason to reverse, noncompliance which prejudices the losing party may be. *See United States v. Simmons*, 476 F.2d 33, 35 (9th Cir. 1973).

The referee adopted the trustee's findings verbatim and without change. This procedure is not in itself improper, although findings so adopted are subject to closer scrutiny on review than those which are the result of the judge's independent work. *United States v. El Paso Natural Gas Co.*, 376 U.S. 651, 656-57 n.4 (1964); *Burgess & Associates, Inc. v. Klingensmith*, 487 F.2d 321, 324-25 (9th Cir. 1973). When a court follows such a procedure, however, the losing party may be prejudiced severely on appeal unless allowed to make known his objections to the

proposed findings before final adoption. Compliance with the procedure prescribed in Local Rule 7(a) becomes a matter of simple judicial fairness in such circumstances.

The findings as adopted were adverse to Lewis on every contested issue. The circumstances under which they were adopted raise serious doubts concerning the integrity of the referee's fact-finding processes. Because of the court's violation of its rules under these circumstances, and in the context of the referee's apparent haste to wind up his affairs before retirement, we are reluctant to require Lewis to prove on appeal that these findings are clearly erroneous. Therefore, we reverse the judgment of the district court and remand for a new hearing on Lewis' petition for reclamation.

Reversed and remanded.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of TELEMART ENTERPRISES, INC. Bankrupt.	In Bankruptcy No. 9886-K ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR REVIEW AND AFFIRMING REFEREE'S ORDER

The above matter came on for hearing on April 2, 1973, upon the petition of Alfred M. Lewis, Inc. and O. K. Meat Packing Company, Inc., to review an order of the Honorable Louis M. Karp, Referee in Bankruptcy, entered April 10, 1972. The said Order of the Referee was made upon the petitions of Alfred M. Lewis, Inc. and O. K. Meat Packing Company, Inc. for Reclamation of Merchandise and Proceeds of Sale thereof. Petitioners-on-review

were represented by their attorneys Hillyer and Irwin, by Norman R. Allenby, and respondent-on-review was represented by its attorneys, David A. Block and O'Neill P. Martin.

The parties having filed points and authorities setting forth their arguments, supplemental oral arguments having been thereto, the matter was submitted to the Court, and the Court, being fully advised, on April 2, 1973, announced its decision that the Order of the Referee of April 10, 1972, be affirmed.

Now, therefore, the Court hereby adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Referee made April 10, 1972, and

It is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed that the petitions of Alfred M. Lewis, Inc. and O. K. Meat Packing Company, Inc. for review of the aforesaid order of the Referee of April 10, 1972, be denied, and

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the Order of the Referee dated April 10, 1972, be and it hereby is affirmed.

DATED: Apr 6 1973 EDWARD J. SCHWARTZ
US District Judge

FILED
NOV 6 1975

Emil E. Melfi, Jr.,
Clerk
U.S.Court of Appeals

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

In the Matter of TELEMART ENTERPRISES, INC., Bankrupt ALFRED M. LEWIS, INC., Petitioner-Appellant vs. LAWRENCE HOLZMAN, TRUSTEE, Appellee.	)	No. 73-2694 ORDER

Before: CHAMBERS, CHOY and GOODWIN, Circuit Judges.

The panel as constituted in the above case has voted to deny the petition for rehearing. Treating the "petition for rehearing en banc" as a petition with suggestion for rehearing en banc, they have rejected the suggestion for rehearing en banc.

The full court has been advised of the suggestion for rehearing en banc and no judge of the court has voted to grant

rehearing en banc. F.R.App.P. 35(b).

The petition for rehearing is denied and the suggestion for rehearing en banc is rejected.

TO CLERK OF THE COURT November 4, 1975

FROM: JUDGE CHOY

RE: In the Matter of Telemart Enterprises, Inc., Lewis v. Holzman, No. 73-2694

I certify that all judges concerned concur in the attached order. The clerk will please file.

Hubert Y. C. Choy
United States Circuit Judge

No. 75-1107

MAR 1 1976

MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

In The Supreme Court of The United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1975

LAWRENCE HOLZMAN,
Trustee in Bankruptcy,

Petitioner,

vs.

ALFRED M. LEWIS, INC.,

Respondent.

RESPONSE TO PETITION
FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1975

LAWRENCE HOLZMAN,
Trustee in Bankruptcy,

Petitioner,

vs.

ALFRED M. LEWIS, INC.,

Respondent.

RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

INTRODUCTION

The recitals of jurisdiction, questions presented, statutory provisions involved, statement of the case and the opinions appearing in the Trustee's petition are an adequate base to explore the desirability or need for the issuance of a writ. Judicial discretion is sought to be invoked pursuant to Rule 19(b) "Where a court of appeals . . . has decided an important question of federal law which has not been, but should be, settled by this court . . ."

REASONS FOR DENYING THE WRIT

I

The Circuit Court in its opinion was giving effect to irreconcilable policies reflected in recognizing property rights established by common law, Bankruptcy Act 70a, 11 USC §110a, and avoiding preferential liens, Bankruptcy Act 67c (1) (A), 11 USC §107c(1) (A). Petitioner would have the Court ignore the one policy and advance the other at the expense of the defrauded seller. The nondefrauded creditors are benefitted at the expense of the defrauded seller. The bigger the fraud the better.

II

The pre-Code common law recognized the right of a defrauded seller to rescind in the face of a bankruptcy. *Donaldson v. Farwell*, 93 US 631, 23 L.ed. 993 (1877).

III

The Commercial Code section here involved is merely a codification of existing common law. To take that code section and ignore its antecedents is to attempt to create an important question of law when in fact none exists.

CONCLUSION

The application for the writ ought to be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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